



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs

Telephone 301/415-820

Washington, DC 20555-0001

E-mail: opa@nrc.gov

Web Site: www.nrc.gov

No. 03-085

June 27, 2003

NRC SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED RULE ON REACTOR LICENSING PROCESSES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment on a proposed revision to its regulations to provide greater clarity regarding the licensing process for early site permits, design certification and combined licenses for nuclear power plants, and other licensing options.

The proposed changes, which mainly affect Part 52 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, are based on lessons learned during previous design certification reviews and discussions with stakeholders about the early site permit, design certification and combined license review processes.

Several substantive amendments are proposed. One would require applicants who reference an early site permit to update emergency planning information. Another would require applicants who reference a certified reactor design to include a plant-specific probabilistic risk assessment in their licensing application that reflects site-specific design information and design changes. The proposed rule also would change the structure of Part 52, clarify other parts of the regulations and show that each licensing process has equal standing.

Interested persons may submit comments within 75 days of publication in the *Federal Register*, expected shortly. The proposed rule is available on the NRC web site, at: <http://ruleforum.llnl.gov> . Comments may be submitted directly on the web site, or by mail to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC, 20555-0001, Attn: Rulemaking and Adjudications staff.

###